

5-29-1879

## Letter from Adeline Manning, Anne Whitney, 1879 May 29

Adeline Manning

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Friday May 29. 19

Patriotism is now complete under this roof, presided over by a flag of the Union five or six yards long, which from our neighbours plate glass windows is reflected into my eyes as I write. Today is decoration day & Father & Mother felt as if they could not long refrain from this testimony of their sympathy. They have owned a flag before. The grand procession forms at a short distance from here, & passes our house while it is fresh. I hope the day with you is as fine as it is here.

Yesterday after writing to you I went to New York to see the pictures at the Academy. They make on the whole a show of much less interest than last year. Miss Storrs, Miss Grant & Miss Wadsworth are represented; Potter, & Fuller, but not Bartol or Whitman. Miss Okey has a sleeping baby that is very good.

Evening. Just returned from making calls on Father at the Sages, & at your brothers. It was too dark to see the Simmses, & I am to go again for that.



If your brother does not go to Belmont  
next Wednesday we hope to have him  
with his wife & Mrs Brigham to dine that  
night.

The most remarked figure in the pro-  
cession today was Mr Beecher, amongst the  
Officers of the 13 Regiment, he, as Chaplain  
made a fine appearance.

Here ends the first week - Good night - My  
dearest.

Sat. My beloved, I want to know this  
morning, as only signs & says can tell,  
how it is with you. If you are in  
any trouble will you write to me at  
once? I mean any serious trouble, that  
goes to your heart. Promise me not  
to conceal such a thing, nor to wait  
till the week is out before writing.  
For to think that you might with-  
hold such a thing from me, unless  
it could be something not right for  
me to know, I cannot endure.

This is another perfect day - I am  
afraid such worms will be ahead of  
the season, & that your way out to -

monks will show their work. The Spawns  
Deep as fire of them. but they destroy the  
chemises & peaches. Today I make some  
calls with Morton. & dine at May's with  
Mabel & Henry.

Give my love to Mrs Chapman.

- Do you know these lines of Matthew Arnold?

"We cannot kneel when we will  
The fire which in the soul resides;  
The spirit bloweth & is still,  
In mystery the soul abides.  
But tasks in hours of insight milled  
Can be through hours of gloom fulfilled."

I think I have seen them, but am glad  
to come across them again.  
And there - if I had had them when  
I wrote my last letter to you. they would  
have helped to express a part of  
what I tried to say.

"When the soul growing clearer,  
Sees God no nearer,  
When the soul mounting higher  
To God comes no higher;



But the accomplished Pride  
Monitors at her side,  
Feeling her high surprise  
Sealing her eagle eyes,  
And when she fain would loose  
Makes idols to adore,  
Changing the pure emotion  
Of her high devotion  
To a skin-deep sense  
Of her own eloquence:  
Strong to deceive, strong to ensnare—  
Save, Oh! Save."